

Corrections employees give from the heart



Parole Board staff made the holidays merrier for two deserving families. From left: Maurice Nelson, Yajaira Hernandez, Larry Schneider, Dave Kleinhardt, Pat Bancroft, Shanna Campau, Judy McDaniel, John Rubitschun and Ryan Merignac.

**Department-wide Casual Day
Tuesday, January 11, 2005
to aid tsunami disaster relief efforts.
See page 9.**

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Once again MDOC employees managed to make Christmas merrier for hundreds of Michigan children. Corrections staff generously adopted families and collected toys for the Toys-for-Tots programs. They remembered senior citizens with adopt a senior and nursing home visits. Care packages were assembled and mailed overseas to troops spending the holidays away from their families and loved ones. One facility remembered their deployed coworker by playing Santa to his family.

Shop-with-a-Cop events provided opportunities for deserving children to give gifts to their families. Cookie raffles raised funds and expanded charity coffers as well as waistlines. Facility staff bought cribs, infant clothes, groceries and necessities along with gifts and toys for those who could use some generosity during the holidays.

“We’re all faced with our own personal budget issues and family obligations at the holidays, yet the outpouring of generosity on the part of corrections staff is unsurpassed year after year,” said Director Patricia L. Caruso. “I’m proud to be a part of the corrections family.”

While it may seem that the holiday comes and goes in a flash, the spirit of the season can touch lives in unexpected ways.

Last year the Parole Board staff at Central Office adopted a family selected for them by the Cristo-Rey Community Center. They once again played Santa to that same family.

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“Last year it appeared that the family had very little, and they were so appreciative of the gifts and groceries, we wanted to make sure they were taken care of again. This is the family of the youngster who turned to me when we were leaving last year and said ‘Don’t forget us next year, Santa,’” said Dave Klienhardt, the annual Parole Board staff Santa. “We knew we would have to visit this family again if they still had a need.”

In fact, that simple plea touched many hearts. St. Louis Correctional Facility case manager Vera Conerly was so inspired after reading the FYI article about the family last year that she asked to be included in 2004 if the Parole Board staff adopted the same family explained Klienhardt.

Once again the family was overwhelmed by the generosity of strangers who made Christmas special for them.

Parnall staff remembers deployed coworker at Christmas

Santa and his elves paid an early visit to the home of Parnall Correctional Facility (SMT) RUO Christopher Baird who is currently on active duty in Iraq. Coworkers at Parnall wanted to let Baird know they were thinking of him, so the employee club purchased gifts for his family that were delivered by Santa, RUO James Trayser, elves C/Os Lori Conant, Rebecca Auger (and her daughter), Bryan Conant, Mary Cooke and A/Sergeant Denise Brown. Baird's three excited children, his wife Jen and both of his parents greeted the crew. The kids opened their gifts and visited with Santa.

A Christmas tree decorated in red, white and blue was one of the many visible reminders of Baird's absence.

“It obviously meant a lot to the family that the facility remembered Chris, through them, this Christmas,” said Warden Harold White.

Parnall staff also sponsored the children at the Jackson Interfaith Shelter this year. Santa, C/O Edward Klee, visited the shelter along with several SMT officers and some of their elves (C/O Kevin Saylor’s daughter and her friends and C/O Auger’s daughter) and delivered Christmas gifts to the 17 children currently living there. With the more than \$1,000 raised at two bake sales sponsored by the employees club, at least five gifts were given to each child. The officers provided cookies and juice while the elves sang Christmas carols for all the residents to enjoy.

“They all spent a couple of hours at the shelter enjoying the children opening and playing with their gifts,” said Warden White. “Staff at Parnall are a generous bunch all year and this Christmas is no exception.” *F.Y.I.*

Jackson Probation Office makes Christmas merry



Jackson Probation adopted a single-parent family of six and made their holiday brighter this year. The family, displaced from their hometown due to domestic violence, received clothes, dolls, games, art supplies and a gas card. Also included were groceries for a Christmas meal complete with ham and all the trimmings.

“The family was greatly appreciative and said they couldn’t believe there were ‘people who cared even though they didn’t know them,’” said supervisor Kathy L. Arnold. *F.Y.I.*

From left: Word Processing Assistant Debbie Prentice, Probation Officer Jim Beamesderfer, Probation Officer Vicki Brown and Word Processing Assistant Tonia Rice.

Super heroes from Standish Max make the Shop-with-a-Cop program an overwhelming success



C/O Duane Partlo assists with toy selection.

Columbus hall complete with a Santa, a corrections officer elf and ADW Tom Winn as Mr. Incredible. A local business donated 20 pizzas.



ADW Tom Winn, alias Mr. Incredible, took time out from his super hero duties to visit with C/O Jeanne Partlo and the children.

The Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (SMF) employee club raised over \$3,500 and provided an opportunity for 35 deserving children, selected by the Family Independence Agency in Arenac County, to spend \$100 each on a Christmas shopping spree. For the third year in a row, SMF employees raised funds to make their Shop-with-a-Cop program an overwhelming success.

Fifteen SMF corrections officers, two state troopers and two sheriff's deputies accompanied children to the local Pamida Store for their evening of shopping.

Non-custody staff assisted with the outing and wrapped presents. The event included a party at the local Knights of



Sgt. Steve Bond studies the selection with his Shop-with-a-Cop partner.

The event generated several exceptional acts of kindness above and beyond the bounds of the program itself. One family's car broke down on the way to the event, but that didn't deter the officers. Sgt. Steve Bond drove to the house, which was a distance away, and picked up mom and child. He then returned the family home after the event.

In a second heart-warming episode, a little girl told RUO Nichole Sheffield, who was helping her shop, that she was buying slippers for her mom.

When they got back to the hall and had them wrapped, the little girl told the gift wrappers to put RUO Sheffield's name on the package. *F.Y.I.*



Jolly elf C/O Thelma Williams assisted Santa helper Steve Kramer, a community volunteer, at the event.

Western Wayne Correctional Facility closes its doors

The Western Wayne Correctional Facility, formerly known as the Detroit House of Correction (DeHoCo), was established in Plymouth, Michigan in 1927. During the mid-1980s the State of Michigan assumed control of the facility and DeHoCo was converted to a state correctional facility housing felons. After 77 years as a correctional institution, the facility has closed its doors.

The Western Wayne Correctional Facility completed the transfer of its population and many WCF staff to the Huron Valley Complex in Ypsilanti in December.

On November 5 staff celebrated the history of WCF as well as a new beginning at the Huron Valley Complex in Ypsilanti during the WCF closing celebration at the Fox Hills Country Club.

More than 400 guests, including current and former employees



Closing celebration attendees included some former WCF employees and ADW Cornell Howard

of WCF,

attended the

dinner which was followed by a brief employee recognition ceremony.

Former WCF Wardens Emmett Baylor Jr., Kenny Robinson and Clarice Stovall as well as RPA Barbara Bock attended the event.

Warden Susan S. Davis received written acknowledgements on behalf of WCF from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Congressman John Conyers and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

“The night was an elegant event to remember and a fitting end to many years of state service of the Western Wayne Correctional Facility,” said Warden Davis. “Special thanks to the WCF employees who served on the Closing Celebration Committee and made the event truly spectacular.” *F.Y.I.*



Warden Susan Davis (right) accepts an acknowledgement from Congressman John Conyers' office staffer.

Pugsley staff adopt a family



Pugsley Correctional Facility (MPF) has participated in the Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family project for the past four years. This year staff collected over a hundred presents for a local family. The gifts ranged from a crib and changing table to infant clothes and gift certificates.

“It never ceases to amaze me the number of giving hearts we have here at MPF. I have been here for almost a year now, and this event just typifies what the MPF staff are like day in and day out,” said MPF Warden Thomas Phillips. *F.Y.I.*

Alger and Camp Cusino raffle cookies



Case Managers Peggy Carberry and Denise Gerth hold presents that will be given to local children.

season with deserving children from Alger County. A Christmas tree was placed in the LMF lobby and decorated with the names of 50 local children. Employees made sure that each child had presents under the tree. *F.Y.J.*

The spirit of giving and sharing was once again evident at Alger Maximum Correctional Facility (LMF) and Camp Cusino this year. The facilities held a holiday cookie raffle that raised more than \$1,016 for Family Independence Agency Christmas food baskets. Staff volunteered to bake 120 dozen cookies which were then raffled.

Twelve lucky winners each took home 10 dozen Christmas cookies.

Staff also wanted to share the joy of the holiday



RUO Larry Henley and C/O Steve Letvenow line up to purchase tickets for the cookie raffle.

Vietnam Veterans make Christmas stockings



Special Activities Director Jim Pryor

A group of Saginaw Correctional Facility prisoners, who call themselves the Vietnam Veterans group, made 245 Christmas stockings for distribution to area charities. Local businesses donated stocking stuffers and the group's liaison, Special Activities Director Jim Pryor, arranged their delivery.

Pryor works with the local Vietnam Veterans Chapter 494 from Bay City and the group helped to make sure the stockings were delivered in time for Christmas. Recipients this year included Covenant Health System, Bay Area Women's Shelter, Shelter House of Midland, Underground Railroad, Bay Medical Center, Tuscola Behavioral Center and Super Kids of Bay City.

"This is a win, win for everyone," said Pryor. "The prisoners return something to the community by making the stockings, the local merchants contribute the goodies and our local VVA chapter assists in delivery. We're all working together for the common good. This is our third year and it keeps getting bigger each year. The local merchants are more receptive each year." *F.Y.J.*

Newberry and Camp Manistique team up for Giving Tree Project



Officers Mary Burton (L) and Christine Heilman (R) are standing next to gifts donated by employees.

donated. Over 78 children received the gifts through the Strong Families/ Safe Children program. Eleven senior citizens also were included in the gift giving.

In addition to the giving tree, RUM Lynn Olson coordinated a cookie bake off. Ten employees each baked ten dozen cookies. Raffle tickets to win one of these boxes were sold to staff. The effort raised \$474 for an area charity. *F.Y.I.*

The staff of Newberry Correctional Facility and Camp Manistique have been busy this season offering time, money and efforts to help those less fortunate.

For the eighth straight year, the Giving Tree Project has proven to be an outstanding success providing Christmas gifts to those whose Christmas might otherwise not be quite as bright.

C/Os Mary Burton and Christine Heilman coordinated the project. A tree loaded with tags listing a person's gender, age and size was placed in the lobby. Employees could take one or more tags and buy gifts for that person. New clothes, toys and other items were bought, wrapped, and anonymously



From left: RUM Lynn Olson, ARUS Tamara LaFond and ARUS Alma Potts begin work assembling boxes with the cookies donated for the bake off.

Baraga collects for Toys for Tots

Baraga employees raised over \$500 from bake sales to purchase toys for the Toys-for-Tots program. *F.Y.I.*

Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility shoppers from left are Case Manager Gina Healey and Counselor Terri Smith.



Coldwater complex staff takes on several projects for holidays



Lori Miller, LCF Record Office Supervisor; Kim Russell, Warden's Secretary for the Coldwater Complex; and C/O Cathy Morrison, Lakeland Correctional Facility

Staff from the Coldwater Complex (Florence Crane Correctional Facility, Lakeland Correctional Facility and Camp Branch) opened their hearts this holiday season by taking part in several projects to assist those in need.

Sponsored by the Coldwater complex employee club, angel trees were placed at all three Coldwater facilities. Each tree was filled with ornaments bearing the first name of a child and the child's age along with their Christmas wish for a toy. Staff from the facilities picked an ornament and filled the wish by purchasing a

gift, wrapping it and placing the ornament on top of the package.

A total of 97 children affiliated with Head Start received gifts through this collaborative effort.

The Coldwater complex business office staff also adopted several "Angels" at the Maple Lawn Medical Care Facility. The staff received a list of persons who have limited family contacts and helped brighten their holidays by providing a gift for them. This special gift program has been in place for several years.

At the same time, staff from the Lakeland Correctional Facility (LCF) adopted another 26 children through a

special arrangement with the local Family Independence Agency. Staff throughout the facility purchased gifts and wrapped them for delivery to FIA staff for distribution to the children. This has been an on-going holiday tradition at Lakeland for several years.

In addition to the Christmas projects, Lakeland Correctional Facility staff adopted a deserving family from the local area and supplied them with food, clothing and an assortment of needed items that were delivered to the family at Thanksgiving.

"The Coldwater Complex staff has always been a great group of kind and caring people. Each year they take it upon themselves to join forces and share with those less fortunate. Whether it is the Special Olympics in summer or holiday gifts in the winter, they have always tried to help those in need," said Warden Carol Howes. **3.4.1**



Billie Pollack, LCF Secretary and Randy Kruger, LCF Classification Director load gifts for the FIA Program.



From left: RUM Jon Houtz, ACF and ACF Deputy Warden Paul Klee, both representatives of the Coldwater Complex employee club, inspect packages.

Retired Richard A. Handlon employee accepts Professional Excellence Award



Roger Gillespie, retired administrative assistant, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility, was selected to receive the Department's Professional Excellence Award. Gillespie retired from the Department on July 31, 2004. He returned to the facility for a reception in his honor and to accept the award from RPA Ray Wolfe. *F.Y.I.*

From left: Roger Gillespie, Warden John Prelesnik, Region II RPA Ray Wolfe.

C/O Joe Hasselbalch receives Red Cross Lifesaving Award

C/O Joe Hasselbalch was presented the Red Cross Lifesaving Award by the West Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. C/O Hasselbalch was one of several passers-by who stopped to render assistance at a rollover accident on highway US-31 last April. C/O Hasselbalch assisted in removing the driver of a burning vehicle who was trapped inside. C/O Hasselbalch credits his annual Red Cross certified first aid training along with his department training with providing him the knowledge and skills to take charge in the situation. *F.Y.I.*

Flint Parole Office staff donate Toys for Tots



From left: Agents Harold Steinman, Joginder Greenia, Paul Brant, John Bell, Jody Hamilton, Thomas Kerns and secretary Theresa Yonan

The Flint Parole Office staff once again donated toys to the Toys for Tots program.

"It's always fun to see what is brought in," said Supervisor Dave Gruenberg. "The parole office staff is always very generous and we had a nice selection of toys this year." *F.Y.I.*

Warden Johnny Cason to retire

Warden Johnny Cason, Muskegon Correctional Facility is retiring after 36 years of distinguished service. A retirement party is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel, 270 Ann St. NW, Grand Rapids.

Social hour is at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner buffet following at 7:00. Cost for dinner (including gift) is \$30 per person. Send dinner reservations and/or gift contributions to Marilyn Tucker, Muskegon Correctional Facility, 2400 S. Sheridan Drive, Muskegon, MI 49442, by January 18.

Rooms at the Radisson are available at a reduced group rate of \$70 until January 18, by calling the Radisson directly (616) 363-9001 (please specify Cason group). Directions to the Radisson Hotel are as follows: Take I-96 to Grand Rapids, US-131 South to Ann Street Exit 88, east to Radisson. *F.Y.I.*

Casual-day Tuesday, January 11 to aid the tsunami disaster relief efforts

A message from the Director

The generous spirit of the employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections is unsurpassed. We have witnessed that compassion and charity time and again. This issue of **7.1.1** is filled with stories of corrections staff members reaching out to those in their communities who are in need. I am grateful to each of you for your concern and goodwill.

In the past you have given generously, but unfortunately, need knows no season. For that reason, I have authorized a special department-wide casual day for Tuesday, January 11 to aid the tsunami disaster relief efforts. I encourage all staff to participate.

Due to the nature of the work assigned to our uniformed staff, casual attire is normally not an option for you. However, for *Tuesday, January 11 only*, those of you in uniform are invited to participate by wearing jeans. You must wear a uniform shirt and a name tag. (Exception: any uniformed staff scheduled to be away from the facility for transportation, court, hospital duty, etc. is required to be in full uniform.)

You have all demonstrated your generosity without fail, and I encourage you to participate in this humanitarian effort.

With your participation, our department can make a difference to the victims of this disaster. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this casual day will go to the Red Cross specifically for the tsunami victims.

Thank you.

Director Patricia L. Caruso

Tsunami-Tuesday Casual day details:

Date: January 11, 2005

Participants: Everyone is encouraged to donate. Jeans are dress of the day for all staff including uniformed staff. (You must wear a uniform shirt and a name tag.)

Exception: any uniformed staff scheduled to be away from the facility for transportation, court, hospital duty, etc. is required to be in full uniform.

Donation: Minimum is \$2.00 (Checks may be made out to Mid-Michigan Red Cross.)

Collection: Contact Julie Southwick in Central Office at (517) 335-6886 for any questions about funds collected.

More information on the relief efforts: Visit www.redcross.org